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rising flood of criminality is not an argument for pessimism ; it is an additional spur to the task of social organization to which the present century is summoned. It is useless to be occupied with methods of improving criminals so long as the conditions of life outside render the prison a welcome shelter. Fifty thousand people in Paris every morning do not know how they will eat or where they will sleep. So long as we foster the growth of the reckless classes, we foster the growth of criminality. Education may modify the form of crime, but has little influence in preventing crime. The only education that can aid is one that is as much physical and moral as intellectual. The proportion of criminals with intellectual education is becoming very large ; the proportion acquainted with any trade is very small ; the proportion engaged in their trade at the time of crime is still smaller. It is obvious that every citizen should be educated to perform some useful social function by which he can earn his living.

All education must include provision for the detection and special treatment of abnormal children. The criminal cannot be caught too young, for it is much better than to wait until he has ruined himself and disgraced his friends. The social and individual conscience can be quickened. Every problem will be found to be dovetailed into that labyrinth which we call society.

ARTHUR MACDONALD.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY. By Richard T. Ely. New York, 1889: Hunt & Eaton.

This is not simply another text-book of the ordinary type—the “latest and best.” It is in part, and it is the best part, a book about political economy.

Professor Ely believes that most people have either an incorrect notion of political economy, or at best only a very inadequate one. It is even true that many an economist of note does not seem to comprehend the whole and the

necessary relation of parts, or to appreciate the true nature of the subject-matter of the science. In Part I the author consequently undertakes a description of the industrial life of mankind. He aims at a better definition of political economy and more accurate conception of the science. This is the distinguishing feature of the book, and however incomplete and fragmentary one may regard the sketch of the industrial evolution of human society, and faint the pictures of existing economic conditions and particularly of the "Economy of the Modern Nation" (Chapter IX), our thanks are due Professor Ely for his venture. It seems a move in the right direction.

Sociology, of which political economy is a part, is still in the main a descriptive science. More accurate description, definition, analysis is greatly needed in economics. The student has his object ever and yet never more before him. Constant and careful induction is absolutely necessary to accuracy in the laboratory of the economist. His complex subject is ever in motion, in all its parts. Only by frequent description can he see it as it is and correct and utilize the deductions with which his science abounds. The broad generalizations which orthodox economists have deduced, often by bad logic from doubtful hypotheses, may still have their use. But why rest content with this method? May we not also now develop the subject into narrower paths by other means?

It is, perhaps, unfortunate that Professor Ely attempted anything else in this connection than this exposé of subject-matter and method. His second introduction to political economy, the "logical" portion, is cast in the old mold—Protection, Exchange, Distribution and Consumption—is of about equal length with Part I, and can hardly be regarded as a good summary of existing economic wisdom. The author did not intend it as such; it only suggests political economy. To serve as text in class-room it must needs be in the hands of an exceptional teacher or be supplemented by a good loan library. Indeed, from be-

ginning to end the book is as much of a guide to economic literature on special topics relating either to the science or the art as it is an introduction to students of the dogmatic science. While designed primarily for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, the work is intended "for use in schools and colleges and for general use." It was thus prepared for a somewhat composite audience. Which niche it will fill best is not easily determined. Certainly the book has much for the general reader. Professor Ely is an International Bimetallist, an Anti-monopolist, a Tariff Reformer and a thorough believer in labor organizations, and he presents his reasons fairly, briefly and earnestly. While his style has neither the vigor nor the grace to fascinate, the cogency of his treatment of questions of economic policy holds the attention. Throughout the book a prominence is given to the idea of the State; what it is and what it can and should do for the individual; but the Christian Socialism of which Professor Ely is to many the representative seldom appears. He urges "municipal control" when feasible or necessary to industrial freedom, and a very radical revision and equalization of our system, or lack of system, of taxation. Twenty pages are given to Finance and twenty to the History of Political Economy. The book closes with *A Few Suggestions for Study and Courses of Reading*.

ARTHUR BURNHAM WOODFORD.

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CARLO F. FERRARIS. *L'assicurazione obbligatoria, e la responsabilità dei padroni ed imprenditore per gli infortuni sul lavoro.* (Seconda edizione riveduta con aggiunta delle discussioni nella Commissione consultiva sulle istituzioni di previdenza e sul lavoro, e del disegno di legge; "Provvedimenti per gli infortuni sul lavoro.") Roma: Tipografia Eredi Botta. 1890. Pp. 262.

The author is an ardent advocate of the principle of compulsory insurance of workingmen, which is to him a necessary concomitant of the modern industrial develop-